United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.41

General Assembly
Fifty-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
20 December 2002

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 41st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 9 December 2002, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)

Contents

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*)

Agenda item 84: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(c) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

Agenda item 95: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*)

Agenda item 96: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*)

Announcement concerning sponsorship of draft resolutions

Organization of work

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02-72793 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Agenda item 12: Report of the Economic and Social Council (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.39 and L.58)

Draft resolutions on public administration and development (A/C.2/57/L.39 and L.58)

1. **Mr. Ben Mellouk** (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.58, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.39.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.58 was adopted.*

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.39 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 84: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.3 and L. 61)

(c) Science and technology for development (*continued*)

Draft resolution on science and technology for development (A/C.2/57/L.3)

Draft resolution on a global biotechnology forum (A/C.2/57/L.61)

4. **Mr. Ben Mellouk** (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.61, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.3. He noted that the title should be changed to read: "Global biotechnology forum: Chile 2003".

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.61, as orally revised, was adopted.*

6. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.3 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 95: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.30 and L.59)

Draft resolutions on the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/C.2/57/L.30 and L.59)

7. **Mr. Ben Mellouk** (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.59, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.30, and announced some minor revisions.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.59, as orally revised, was adopted.*

9. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.30 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 96: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.31 and L.60)

Draft resolutions on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/57/L.31 and L.60)

10. **Mr. van der Pluijm** (Belgium), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.60, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.31, and announced a minor revision to paragraph 8.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.60, as orally revised, was adopted.*

12. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.31 was withdrawn.*

Announcement concerning sponsorship of draft resolutions

13. **The Chairman** announced that Israel, Jamaica and Mongolia had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.45, submitted under agenda item 87 (a), and that Jordan and Chile had become sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.49, submitted under agenda item 86.

Organization of work

14. **Mr. Belov** (Programme Planning and Budget Division), in response to questions raised at earlier meetings concerning the programme budget implications of the resolutions on protection of global

climate for present and future generations of mankind considered at the fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions of the General Assembly, said that during the fifty-sixth session the Secretariat, in its statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.41 (A/C.2/56/L.50), also applicable to draft resolution A/C.2/56/L.77 (subsequently adopted by the General Assembly as resolution 56/199) had called attention to problems that had emerged with regard to the administrative arrangements for providing conference services for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Up to that point, the cost of conference servicing had been met from the United Nations regular budget, without a specific appropriation. Owing to the weakening of the United States dollar and increased demand for services, however, the conference-servicing budget had been overspent.

15. The Secretariat had therefore recommended that conference services should be provided to the Conference of the Parties on a reimbursable basis. However, at its 40th meeting during the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/56/SR.40), members of the Committee had expressed the view that the Secretariat should adhere to the current arrangements for conference servicing and had pointed out that the General Assembly had already provided for those arrangements in the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

16. With regard to draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43 on the same topic, which was under consideration by the Committee during the current session, the Secretariat, in its statement of programme budget implications (A/C.2/57/L.56), noted that the Conference of Parties to the Convention customarily set aside a contingency provision for use in the event that the General Assembly decided not to provide resources for conference servicing at its meetings in the United Nations programme budget. Since the budget had not been set for the 2004-2005 biennium, the General Assembly could decide that such services should be provided on a reimbursable basis during that biennium.

17. **The Chairman** thanked the representative of the Programme Planning and Budget Division for attempting to clarify certain doubts which had been raised by delegations. He also acknowledged the work of the Secretariat in providing administrative and logistical support.

18. **Mr. Niño Gómez** (Venezuela) expressed appreciation for the explanation and indicated that at the appropriate time the Group of 77 and China would state its position, bearing in mind the explanation provided by the Division.

19. **Mr. Traub** (United States of America) asked whether the United Nations Secretariat had in fact been reimbursed by the Convention secretariat for the costs of conference services, as envisaged under the statement of programme budget implications (A/C.2/56/L.50) from the fifty-sixth session. He recalled that it had been on the strength of his delegation's understanding of paragraph 11 of that statement, on the absence of programme budget implications for the United Nations if conference-servicing costs for the Convention secretariat were provided on a reimbursable basis, that his delegation had joined consensus on document A/RES/56/199 in 2001.

20. With respect to the 2004-2005 biennium, he asked whether the costs anticipated for that period were expected to be provided on a reimbursable basis.

21. **Mr. Belov** (Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the United Nations Secretariat had not been reimbursed because the General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session, had already decided that the services would be provided to the Convention secretariat within the United Nations budget. At the fifty-sixth session, the document considered by the Committee had not reflected any material change.

22. In response to the second question posed by the United States representative on the new biennium, he said that since the meetings had not yet been included in the calendar to be serviced free of charge, it was proposed that the arrangement for reimbursement should be introduced. He also pointed out that the Convention contained a budget provision that would prevent Member States parties to the Convention from paying twice for the same activity.

23. **Mr. Traub** (United States of America) said his delegation had understood from the explanation provided at the current meeting and from the 2001 statement of programme budget implications that there had been no funds in the United Nations budget to support such costs because of the negative impact of currency exchange rate fluctuations. It was curious that there had in fact been resources available. His delegation was therefore concerned that the previous

statement of programme budget implications had not been submitted to the Fifth Committee.

24. With regard to the current statement of programme budget implications, it was his understanding that conference-servicing costs would be provided on a reimbursable basis, although that fact had not been explicitly stated in document A/C.2/57/L.56. He therefore asked whether the Secretariat could clarify the intention of the current statement of programme budget implications in that regard.

25. **Mr. Belov** (Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that, at the outset, funds had not been included in the United Nations budget for the Convention in question. It had originally been mandated by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, that the United Nations would provide services from within the United Nations resources to that Convention. The issue was being raised because the Conference of the Parties now had the potential to pay for conference services. The current text of the draft resolution should be amended in order for reimbursable services to be introduced.

26. **The Chairman** urged the Committee to complete its deliberations on the various outstanding draft resolutions in order to meet the 11 December deadline.

27. **Mr. Niño Gómez** (Venezuela) reassured the Chairman that there were far fewer draft resolutions pending than previously thought. The Group of 77 and China expected to complete its work within the given time frame.

The meeting rose at 5.25 p.m.